

NEWS RELEASE

u.s. department of the interior

national park service

RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

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LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

PARTNERS WITH SPINDLE CITY CORPS

TO MAINTAIN LOWELL CANALS

(Lowell, MA) Lowell National Historical Park will partner this summer with the Spindle City Corps to remove vegetation from the historic canal walls. The park has been awarded a Public Land Corps grant for 1999 to implement this backlogged maintenance project. The Public Land Corps grant program, begun last year, partners non-profit youth conservation groups with national park areas to complete backlogged maintenance projects.

This year one hundred forty-eight grants were approved nationwide for \$1,999,840 with matching funds of \$1,965,745, for a total program of \$3,965,585. This program will employ approximately 823 young Americans, and locally will employ about ten youth full-time for eight weeks this summer, although the entire group of forty Spindle City Corps members will work on this project. The Spindle City Corps is an eight week community service and learning program which employs local high school and college students. The students receive a small weekly stipend and are eligible for an education award at the completion of the eight week program. Corps members are representative of the city's ethnic and economic diversity.

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The project will involve vegetation removal along the canal walls at Lowell National Historical Park. Small trees and brush grow along the canal walls and the roots grow into the mortar joints and between the granite blocks which ultimately destroys the canal walls. Cutting and removal of the vegetation is necessary in order to preserve the integrity of canal walls. There are 11.2 miles of canal walls in the Park. The grant will also fund additional backlogged maintenance work such as weeding and general canalway clean up along the Lower Pawtucket Canalway, Eastern Canal, Merrimack Canalway, and Boott Canalway.

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Prepared April 16, 1999